

Department of Corrections (DOC) and Board of Pardons & Parole (BOPP)

April 10, 2014 – 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Department of Corrections

5 S. Last Chance Gulch

Helena, Montana 59620

The meeting was chaired by Mike Batista; Director, DOC

Department of Corrections staff in attendance: Loraine Wodnik, Jane LaMoure, Pam Bunke, Ron Alsbury, Joan Daly, Leroy Kirkegard, Dawn Devor, Adrianne Slaughter, John Daugherty, Colleen Ambrose, Been Reed, Sally Hilander, Connie Winner, Rhonda Schaffer, Kila Shepherd, Sam Casey and Andrew Olcott.

BOPP members in attendance: Mike McKee, Pete Lawrenson, Margaret Bowman and Sandy Heaton

BOPP staff in attendance: Fern Johnson, Julie Thomas, Meaghan Shone, Christine Slaughter, Timothy Allred and Mike Webster.

1. Director Batista made introductions.

Old Business:

(Last meeting October 10, 2013) Minutes were approved.

WATCH East Program: Pam Bunke informed the committee that they are looking for a new administrator as Deb Dion left. The program has been approved for additional beds.

Female Boot Camp: Pam Bunke said Treasure State Correctional Training Center accepted its first three female booters and the maximum they can house is four. The females attend the same programming as the males and also get their heads shaved, like the males. Their sleeping quarters are separate.

2. New Business

Rachel Weiss: Law & Justice Interim Committee: The next interim meeting will be April 28, 2014. The committee will be looking at bill draft language and possible recommendations to the legislature. She said they want to hear all feedback, good and bad.

Legal: The board is being sued by Cameron McBryde who was at NEXUS. McBryde had accepted a settlement from DOC but the day the documents were finalized he demanded 8x more so the DOC declined.

BOPP: Fern Johnson said the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the State in the Gilbert Brown case. There was discussion of sex offender treatment recommendations. Leroy Kirkegard will look at the wording and see what could be changed.

Legislative Services: Adrienne Slaughter will be the face of DOC/BOPP during the next legislature to ensure we have consistent information. She will include the board of any areas of concerns.

IT: John Daugherty reported they are looking into electronic storage. Not sure what the cost will be. BI is the vendor that won the GPS RFP and they are working on the details of the contract.

BOPP: Fern mentioned that ARM 20-1-101 is outdated and Loraine said it's on her radar. Fern, Cathy Gordon and Pam Bunke decided they could work out absconder warrants informally. VisionNet is not available in Great Falls and Shelby, but they are working on making it available. Chairman McKee said Dr. Robert Page, MSOTA president from Helena is doing psyche evals at the Great Falls Regional Prison. The board is very comfortable with how the screening committee is working on movements to PRCs. He appreciates the cooperation and willingness from the DOC in providing resources to the board and staff. He thanked Pam and Sam Casey for painting accurate pictures. Pete Lawrenson went to NIC for new board training. Refreshing to see Montana is ahead of the curve and extremely liberal in releasing prisoners.

MSP: Warden Kirkegard announced Warden Frink is leaving his position at the Shelby Prison to work in Oklahoma.

MWP: Warden Daly attended NIC training and learned about community work programs and increasing vocational programs. She said Montana is ahead of the game but we still have a long way to go.

DOC: Director Batista discussed population management and increased costs for jail holds. The Reentry Task Force is going strong and they will submit a report of recommendations to the Law & Justice Interim committee. In June, the Council of State governments will have a paper out that will highlight the positive results that came out of the reentry efforts in eight states. DOC is trying to refine Montana's reentry efforts and save taxpayers' money. Staff at MSP work hard and are active and do positive things with mental health issues. There are changes that are taking place across the USA and we are moving forward. There is only one psychiatrist at MSP and he sees 150 patients.

Director Batista is interested in have PEW come out to Montana and examine our community correction's program process and look at the number of times offenders circulate through programs and determine if we are helping them or not. It's good to evaluate and try to

streamline. Part of the backlog in ACCD is the increase in crime in Montana and we are tapped out in the number of beds available in community corrections. We try to keep people out of prison and a person has to work hard to get back into prison. Batista wants to be able to evaluate this. He is looking at reform measures in other states, a lot of states do not have 17 community programs like the DOC, but they are adding them as part of their reform efforts. At the same time, other states have increased P&P officers and instituted sanctions on the local level.

We are going to make a strong push to get others involved to help us find solutions. DOC plans to meet with county attorneys and judges as we go through the budget process and policy determinations.

Ron Alsbury offered any staff from DOC or BOPP to come along and take a ride with a P&P officer as it's a valid opportunity to see and hear what they think works.

Public comment: none

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is tentatively set for October 8, 2014 with BOPP hosting.